

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 1999-392-C - ORDER NO. 1999-781  
OCTOBER 28, 1999

IN RE: Joint Petition of Communications Billing, Inc. ) ORDER APPROVING  
and Vista Group International, Inc. for ) ASSET TRANSFER  
Approval of Communications Billing )  
Acquisition of Certain Assets of Vista Group. )

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the joint petition of Communications Billing, Inc. (Billing) and Vista Group International, Inc. (Vista) (together, the Companies) for approval of Billing's acquisition of certain assets of Vista. Upon closing of this transaction, Billing will own and operate a certain portion of the subscriber base currently owned by Vista.

Pursuant to the instructions of the Executive Director, the Companies published a Notice of Filing one time in newspapers of general circulation in the areas affected. The Companies filed affidavits of publication. The Notice of Filing informed the public on how it could participate in proceedings concerning this matter before the Commission. No Protests or Petitions to Intervene were received. The Companies therefore request expedited review of the matter, and move that the Commission designate its regular weekly meeting as the "due hearing" called for in the requisite statutory language. The Companies have also submitted verified testimony to establish its case. Accordingly, we

grant expedited review, and determine that our regular weekly meeting shall constitute the “due hearing.”

The Companies have submitted the verified testimony of Courtney A. Maroon, President of Communications Billing, Inc. According to the testimony, Billing seeks Commission approval of the transfer of certain assets of Vista to Billing. Specifically, Billing seeks Commission approval of Billing’s purchase of a) the right to provision certain Vista telecommunications customers with telecommunications and ancillary services, b) the right to receive payment from Vista customers, and c) the right to receive accounts receivable for such Vista customers. The Companies entered into an asset purchase agreement memorializing the transaction. Both Billing and Vista are certificated by this Commission.

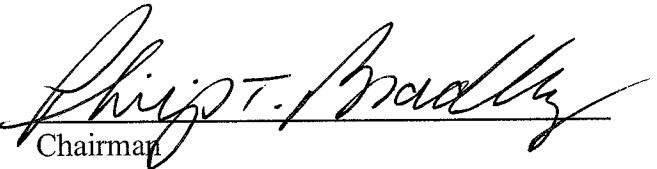
According to the testimony, no modification of authority will be necessary. The testimony also asserts that the transfer will have no adverse effect on customers in South Carolina and will be essentially transparent to such customers. Billing will file a tariff incorporating Vista’s service offerings in South Carolina, thereby enabling Vista’s customers to obtain service from Billing under identical rates, terms and conditions. Billing will provide the applicable Vista customers with written notification of its acquisition of the certain Vista assets, and provide these customers with the opportunity to cancel their service at no charge if they choose not to obtain long distance service from Billing.

Ms. Maroon opines that the transfer is in the public interest in that it should serve to enhance the service currently provided by Vista to the South Carolina interexchange customers in question.

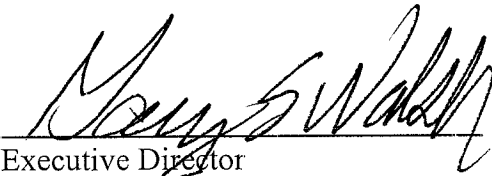
We agree. It appears to this Commission that the transfer is in the public interest, and we approve it for the reasons cited by the testimony.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director

(SEAL)